

4 Results

4.1 Stakeholders, Needs & Issues By County

This section of the document contains the results from the information-gathering process within each county. **Important Note:** In many of the meetings held in individual counties, there were issues brought up which are not consortium issues, or issues that can or should be addressed at the consortium level. These concerns have all been documented in the meeting minutes from those meetings (which all appear in an appendix to this document), but they may not be repeated or documented in this section. The concentration in this document was on items relevant to and addressable by the consortium.

Appendix D – Radio Inventory Summary contains a detailed listing of the radio inventories of those agencies who answered questionnaires. If questionnaires were not answered, there may not be an entry for those agencies. The one notable exception is Fallon County, where Chuck Lee sent the Project Manager a good deal of information about radios in that county.

4.1.12 Richland County

County Representative: Denny Palmer, Undersheriff, Richland County. 406-433-6842

Number Of County Stakeholder Questionnaires Returned: 9

Number Of County Agencies Represented By Questionnaires: 9

4.1.12.1 County Stakeholder Interactions

The following matrix details the major stakeholders in the county and how they interact with each other.

[illegible]

Figure 32 – Communication Interactions, Richland County



4.1.12.2 Questionnaire Results

Richland County Ambulance Service

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

05/03/2005

Location of Agency:

*216 14th Ave SW
Sidney, MT 59270
488-2180*

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Butch Renders, Richland County Ambulance Service

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

*4
Duplex ?*

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

*155.385 EMT paging East and Western region paging (600 times per)
155.280 ambulance to hospital (500 times per year)
155.340 hospital to hospital (minimal, talk to Williston on transfers)
155.325 Central region paging (minimal, talk around)*

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

60%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

We want better coverage.



C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Terrain and antenna height?

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No/Yes.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

5

B. Number of Portable Unit:

About 26

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

None.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Through PSAP (sheriff's office)

B. From where?

Law Enforcement Center in Sidney.

C. Hardware Used?

?

D. Number of Positions?

Two.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Yes/Yes (improvements in consistency are needed, SOP?)

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

?

B. Which parts and with whom?

?

8. What is good about your current system?

It works well.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

?

Coverage for paging in Fairview

Coverage for ambulance to hospital communications

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Dispatch, hospital, law enforcement, fire.

B. On an emergency basis:

Dispatch, hospital, law enforcement, fire.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Dispatch pages us for ambulance calls and records our times.

We report to the hospital about patient conditions, etc.

We work with law enforcement for update on our patients, information, direction and assistance.



We work with Fire Department for assistance and our support of them.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

1. *Paging coverage.*
2. *Mobile to hospital coverage.*
3. *Mobile to mobile coverage.*
4. *handheld to dispatch coverage.*
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Reliability.*
2. *Maintainability.*
3. *Simplicity.*
- 4.
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.



Fairview Police Dept.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

05/01/2005

Location of Agency:

Fairview, MT.

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Chief Gregory Thiel FPD

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

*Duplex
48 on Motorolas*

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

*389 – normally used for all radio traffic
365 – communicate w/fire agencies.
Car-car – used to talk between law enforcement officers
Sathem – used to communicate with McKenzie County Sheriff Dept.*

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

50%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Not.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Fairview sits in a “low” area and the 389 tower is almost unreachable.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?



Yes. Better communications with Richland County dispatch – officer safety.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No – Yes.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

3

B. Number of Portable Unit:

6

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Via 389 tower. 1 dispatcher.

B. From where?

Sidney.

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

Two.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not really. A repeater tower closer to Fairview.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

We are actively the one who is using it or being shared with.

8. What is good about your current system?

It works, but need to work better.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

At times we need to communicate with McKenzie County and it is difficult to reach Sather tower with our mobiles and near impossible with our portables. It is also very difficult to reach the McKenzie County tower with our mobiles. Also, we are not allowed to use the Montana Highway Patrol tower to communicate with MHP.

There are also times when we need to communicate with the North Dakota Highway Patrol and that is impossible at present. A tower near or around the Snowden Bridge would also assist in a “dead” spot in that area.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Sidney Police Department, Richland County Sheriff Department, McKenzie County Sheriff Department, Montana Highway Patrol, North Dakota Highway Patrol, Fairview Fire Department.

B. On an emergency basis:

All of the above, but under an emergencies basis – Watford City Police Department, Roosevelt Sheriff Depts. Williams County Sheriffs Depts, Trenton Fire, Sidney Fire, Watford City Fire Dept.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Day/day – we use 389 to communicate with dispatch. I may also use 389 and car-car to communicate with my officers. Emergencies – I may end up needed to communicate with any agency within a 150 mile range or greater depending upon the emergency at hand.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

1. *Countywide mobile to mobile coverage.*
2. *Statewide mobile to mobile coverage.*
3. *County wide paging.*
4. *Encryption.*
5. *Montana – North Dakota coverage.*

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Affordability*
2. *Reliability*
3. *Coverage (in all areas)*
4. *Coverage with portable units*
5. *Simplicity/phone operable*

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

I feel that a statewide system is imperative to emergency communication. This also includes communication w/ North Dakota emergency personnel.



Fairview Volunteer Fire Dept.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

05/02/2005

Location of Agency:

412 South Central Ave.
Fairview, MT 59221

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Tim Denowh, Chief, Fairview VFD
Steve Andrews, Assistant Chief, Fairview VFD

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

Repeater channel duplex tx 153.770 rx 154.400 for paging and operations
1 repeater duplex
6-16 channel mobiles
2-32 channel mobiles
2-128 channel mobiles
1-160 channel mobile, dual head
3-32 channel portables
2-8 channel portables
2-10 channel portables
7-16 channel portables

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

Attached List:

	RX	TX
Richland Co. Sheriff	159.210	155.910
RCSO T/A	159.210	159.210
365 Fire	158.820	155.865
365 Fire T/A	158.820	158.820
Ambulance Page	155.385	155.385
MT Mutual Aid	153.905	153.905
Richland Co. Road T/A	151.115	151.115
RC Road	151.115	156.180
MT Fire Mutual Aid	154.070	154.070



<i>Roosevelt Co. SO</i>	<i>159.150</i>	<i>154.725</i>
<i>William Co. SO</i>	<i>156.210</i>	<i>154.830</i>
<i>McKenzie Co PW</i>	<i>154.115</i>	<i>153.755</i>
<i>McKenzie Co. T/A</i>	<i>154.115</i>	<i>154.155</i>
<i>Fairview Police</i>	<i>154.890</i>	<i>154.890</i>
<i>Fairview Fire Dept T/A</i>	<i>154.400</i>	<i>154.400</i>
<i>Fairview Fire Dept</i>	<i>154.400</i>	<i>153.770</i>
<i>Culbertson Fire</i>	<i>154.145</i>	<i>154.145</i>
<i>Lambert Fire</i>	<i>151.625</i>	<i>151.625</i>
<i>Williston FD</i>	<i>154.160</i>	<i>156.000</i>
<i>Williston FD T/A</i>	<i>154.160</i>	<i>154.160</i>
<i>Alex 1st Responders</i>	<i>154.875</i>	<i>158.925</i>
<i>Sather (MCSO)</i>	<i>154.875</i>	<i>158.925</i>
<i>Sidney Hospital</i>	<i>155.280</i>	<i>155.280</i>
<i>Weather</i>	<i>162.400</i>	
<i>Weather</i>	<i>162.475</i>	
<i>Weather</i>	<i>162.550</i>	

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

90%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Mostly acceptable

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Severe terrain along the Missouri River on the north end of Richland Co.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

More coverage is better to serve the area not able to be covered now.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

Good coverage in our first response area except for the area noted above.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

9

B. Number of Portable Unit:

14

1 Base station /1 repeater

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Richland County Law Enforcement Center.

B. From where?

Sidney, MT.

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

2

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Fire radio with the Fairview Police Dept for paging. Also Sheridan County uses this frequency.

8. What is good about your current system?

Good coverage for paging and for portable radios used for personnel maintaining the system.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Page missing.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Page missing.

B. On an emergency basis:

Page missing.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

From 911 call to paging from the RCSO dispatcher. Contac dispatch when responding to incident, calling when on scene during operations usually switch to FFD channel for communications, can contact dispatch using our portable radios using our FFD repeater. When clearing the scene switch back to the county (365) channel.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Simplicity*
2. *Reliability*
3. *Maintainability*



4. Affordability

5. Education

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.

**Sidney Vol Fire Dept.****Date of Interview or Survey Completion:**

05/04/2005

Location of Agency:

115 2nd St. SE

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Rob Gilbert – Sidney Fire Department.

Questions**1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?**

28 used – Kenwoods

128 Total – mobile and handheld

16 used – Motorola

14 used – B.K.

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

Main Freq – 155.865 Transmit (repeater)

(365) 158.820 Trans & Rec (talk around)

Attached Sheet:

<i>Channel</i>	<i>RX</i>	<i>TX</i>
1 (RCSO RPT)	159.210	155.910
2 (RCSO T/A)	159.210	159.210
3 (RCFD RPT)	158.820	155.865
4 (RCFD T/A)	158.820	158.820
5 (EMT PGE)	155.38	155.385
6 (MT MU/AD)	153.905	153.905
7 (RCRD RPT)	151.115	151.180
8 (RCRD T/A)	151.115	156.180
9 (DES /FAIR)	154.070	154.070
10 (SPD)	154.845	154.845
11 (F-Fire)	154.400	153.770
12 (MCKENZ Co)	154.115	153.755
13 (D CO Fire)	154.890	154.890
14 (RSVCO RP)	156.015	158.895



15 (WBX CO)	158.895	156.015
16 (MT F/MUA)	154.070	154.070
17 Culbertson	154.145	154.145
18 Richey	151.895	154.895
19 Lambert	151.625	151.625
20 Real Trucking	152.090	158.550
21 Franz Construction	151.985	151.985
22 Bob Albin	152.930	152.930
23 Gartner Denowh	152.915	152.915
24 Alex 1 st Repeater	154.875	158.925
25 Sather (MCSO)	154.875	158.925
26 Weather	162.400	
27 Weather	162.475	
28 Weather	162.550	

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

80%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Good

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Severe terrain.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Yes – min 90% coverage w/ 40-50 watt radios.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

Pretty close, we need it for mutual aid to all county fire depts. and Lambert District.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

29 includes satellite

B. Number of Portable Unit:

45

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

None.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

911 then pagers one position at LEC.

B. From where?

L.E.C Richland County.

C. Hardware Used?

Quantar

D. Number of Positions?

1

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

*Savage Fire paging and radio
Savage ambulance paging and radio
Lambert ambulance paging
Fairview fire radio*

All fire units county wide have freq.

8. What is good about your current system?

All units in county can communicate with each other at incidents.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Sometimes dispatch doesn't answer us – reason unknown. Aging equipment in Satellite units.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Not answered.

B. On an emergency basis:

Fire departments and/or emergency services from counties that will give mutual aid to or get aid from.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Command personnel to dispatch and to fire units, fire personnel use handhelds at scene and communicate with command and other personnel as needed.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

1. *County wide mobile to mobile*
2. *Better coverage for pagers.*
3. *Mobile to dispatch in far reaching responding areas.*
- 4.
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Affordability*
2. *Simplicity*



- 3. *Education – goes w/ #2*
- 4. *Maintainability*
- 5. *Phone/Radio combos*

- 14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.**

Not answered.



Savage Vol Fire Dept.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

04/28/2005

Location of Agency:

Savage, MT

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Marshal Vojacek (Chief)

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

4 Channels

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

Channel 3 – 155.865 – R.C. Fire repeater – talking when in route to fire or large fires.

Channel 4 – 158.820 – R.C. Fire talk around. Talking when on scene or short distances.

Channel 6 – 153.905 – MMA Gold Training

Channel 7 – 156.180 – RC Road. Use when we have 2 fires in county at same time and need repeater.

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

75%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Not.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Terrain, Burns Creek Drainage/Yellowstone River w/ Portable units.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No – yes we need mobile coverage.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

10 – 45 watt

B. Number of Portable Unit:

10 – 6 watt

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Richland Co. Law Enforcement Center. 1 position.

B. From where?

Sidney MT.

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

1

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Sidney Fire, Fairview Fire, Lambert Fire District.

8. What is good about your current system?

Not answered.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Aging equipment (radios, pagers), low wattage in mobile units, coverage.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Not answered.

B. On an emergency basis:

Law enforcement when assisting EMS on vehicle wrecks.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Each fire truck contacts command when leaving fire hall/on scene and giving orders what to do.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

1. *Better repeater coverage all of county wide use of mobile to mobile in county.*
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Affordability*
2. *Flexibility*
3. *Maintainability*
4. *Simplicity*
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.



Lambert Fire District.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

03/03/2005

Location of Agency:

Lambert MT – Richland County

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Not answered

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

128

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

151.625

365 (?), 389 (?)

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

50%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Unacceptable.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Should have 90% coverage.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.



E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

5

B. Number of Portable Unit:

2

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Richland county.

B. From where?

Sheriff Department.

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered

D. Number of Positions?

Not answered

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Not answered

B. Which parts and with whom?

Not answered

8. What is good about your current system?

Not answered

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Not answered

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Law enforcement, other fire departments, dispatch.

B. On an emergency basis:

Not answered.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Not answered

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Affordability*
2. *Reliability*
3. *Simplicity*



- 4. Flexibility**
- 5. Redundancy**

- 14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.**

Not answered.



RCSO (Richland County Sheriff's Office)

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

Not answered

Location of Agency:

*110 2nd Ave NW
Sidney, MT*

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Not answered

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

*1 – 389 & 389 TA
2 – SPDs 954*

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

155.341

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

w/100 watt, 45 watt or w/5 watt or pagers.

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Scale of 1-10 – 7.5 (100 watt)

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Not acceptable - terrain

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Improvement desired – (to achieve 45 watt – 90-95%)



E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

Yes, dependant on repeater.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

7

B. Number of Portable Unit:

7

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

All are P25 – trunkable and encryption

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

1 position.

B. From where?

Sidney LEC

C. Hardware Used?

Quantar

D. Number of Positions?

1-2

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

All LE, Fire, EMS, dispatched through us.

8. What is good about your current system?

- 1) Within county, all use frequency at dispatch. Then kick off their specific emergency.*
- 2) All users work for and with the current emergency taking precedence.*

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Coverage – Missouri River, Burns Creek.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

EMS, Fire, Public Works, business phone link

B. On an emergency basis:

EMS, Fire, Public Works

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Records

*contact land owners through dispatch
contact complainants through dispatch
converse with ambulance
converse with fire, converse w/ DPW*

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1. Improve 45-100 watt – 5 watt coverage*
- 2. Provide encryption*
- 3. Provide command control phone system link*
- 4. Keep the top 10 list as is on all vehicles for LE “top 10 will be a zone of its own”.*
- 5.*



13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Reliability*
2. *Affordability*
3. *Redundancy*
4. *Satellite link*
5. *Phone link*

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Secure funding sources to maintain & administer the statewide system.



City of Sidney.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

05/02/2005

Location of Agency:

*115 2nd St. SE
Sidney, MT 59270*

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Sidney public works department

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

One, duplex

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

*155.05500 – primary
158.94000 - repeater*

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

90%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Fair.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Antenna Patterns/gaps

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.



E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No, no.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

8

B. Number of Portable Unit:

14

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Un maned.

B. From where?

City Hall.

C. Hardware Used?

5 watt portables

40 watt mobile

D. Number of Positions?

Two.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

No.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Not answered.

8. What is good about your current system?

It provides worker to worker and supervisor to worker contact.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Sidney Public Works can not communicate with local city or county law enforcement, fire department, or county public works unless they are monitoring the city frequency.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

None.

B. On an emergency basis:

Law enforcement, fire, county public works, disaster and emergency personnel.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

10 to 20 communications per day to coordinate work activities. During emergencies local law enforcement switch to Sidney Public Works frequency when communication with them are required. Sidney Public Works can not monitor any common frequencies.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1. Emergency capabilities with a common frequency with other city/county agencies.*
- 2. Improved clarity and coverage for day to day activities.*
- 3.*
- 4.*
- 5.*



13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Compatibility with other city/county agencies*
2. *Simplicity*
3. *Reliability*
- 4.
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.



Sidney Police Dept.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

05/12/2005

Location of Agency:

Sidney, MT

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Frank DiFonzo – Sidney Police Departement

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

1 Freq – WNAB954 - Simplex

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

WNAB 954 – 155.845

Mobile – 155.310

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

Mobile – 100%

Portable – 75%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Mobile – ok, portable - unacceptable

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Antenna, patterns, in building (see all of the above)

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

No.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

Yes.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

8

B. Number of Portable Unit:

12

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

All mobiles

8 portables.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

See county survey.

B. From where?

C. Hardware Used?

See county survey.

D. Number of Positions?

Two.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

See county survey.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Richland County Department.

8. What is good about your current system?

A lot of things are now available because of good planning over the last two years. New equipment and operational planning.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Not answered.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

North Dakota counties – McKenzie County, Williams County, Golden Valley County

B. On an emergency basis:

Same as above.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Not answered.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1. Encryption of local L/E operations*
- 2. Ability to communicate with all mobile units in county.*
- 3. Maintaining priority for ten radio freq. To be used by all emergency response agencies.*
- 4. Booster repeater located within city to allow portables to reach main repeater.*
- 5.*

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.



1. *Complete coverage of jurisdiction.*
 2. *Communications with North Dakota*
 3. *Communications with State agencies*
 4. *KISS*
 5. *Low maintenance on system – top grade equipment – prompt service*
- 14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.**

Not answered.

4.1.12.3 County Concerns or Issues

1. Communications Improvements

The following pie chart depicts the communications improvements desired by the responding stakeholders in this county:

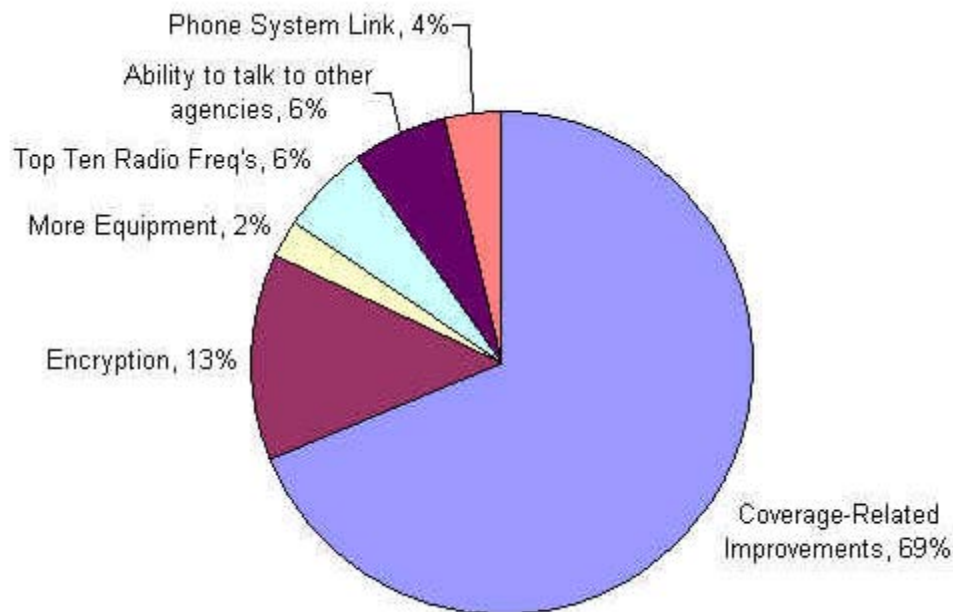


Figure 33 – Communications Improvements, Richland County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five communications improvements they would like to see. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower. A percentage was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five “wedges,” this means the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

2. Success Factors

The following chart depicts the success factors considered critical by the responding stakeholders in this county in order for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful.

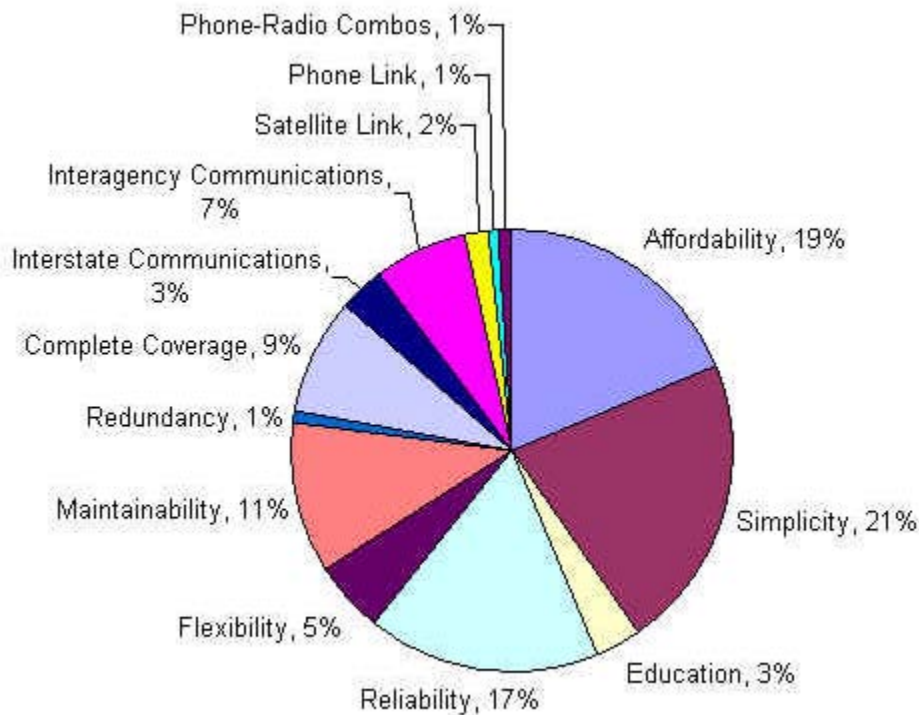


Figure 34 – Critical Success Factors, Richland County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five factors they felt were most necessary for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower, in order to give higher-ranked items more weight. A percentage for each item was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five items (“wedges”), this indicates the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

Some of the same items often appear in both the communications improvements chart and the critical success factors chart. This indicates that these items are very important to the stakeholders.

3. Major Dead Spots

- A. Extreme northeastern portion of the county near Nohly (Snowden Bridge).
- B. Extreme southwestern portion of the county – the Burns Creek Issue.
- C. Fairview is in a low area and there are problems resulting from that.
- D. Communications with North Dakota.
- E. Poor coverage west of Charlie Creek.

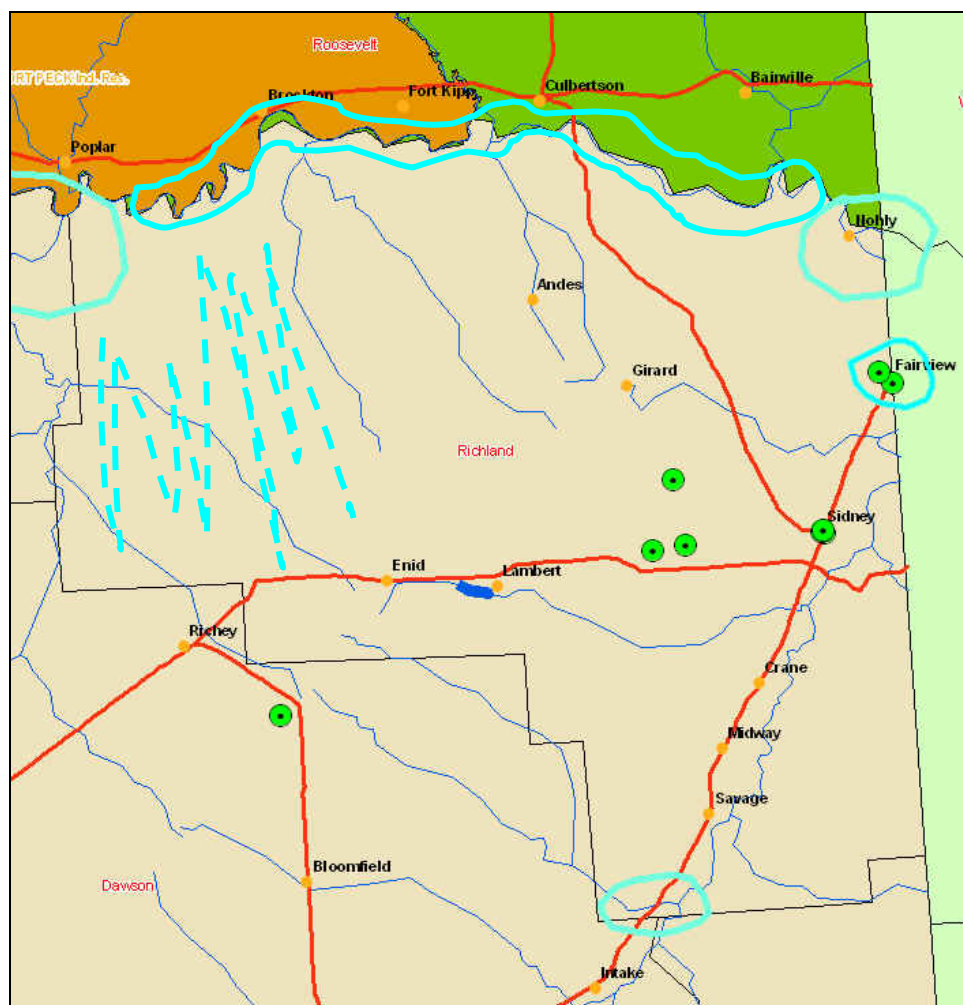


Figure 35 – Dead Spots, Richland County

Note: Location of “dead spots” is very approximate. In addition, some areas within the dead spots will have better reception than others.